THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last six months (August, 1996 to January, 1997), 858 complaints were received from the passengers of Indian Airlines regarding irregularities of Schedules, delays and deficiencies in other services.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Beedi Workers

4035. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 1.5 lakh people, including children and women, are engaged in beedi rolling in Madhya Pradesh and they roll about 20 crore beedis, daily;

(b) whether only three lakh beedi workers in that States are accredited with the labour department and are entitled for facilities provided under the Beedi Welfare Fund Scheme of the Union Government; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring the unorganised labour under the various labour law?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mumbai-Bangalore Kurla Express

4036. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the problem faced by the travellers of Mumbai-Bangalore Kurla Express (Train No. 1017) due to increase in duration of journey from Mumbai to Hubli after the gauge conversion and the inconvenient timings of this train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to change the timings and reduce the duration of journey;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) At present, 1017 Mumbai CST-Bangalore Express leaves Mumbai CST at 2240 hrs., arrives Hubli at 1725 hrs. It takes 18 hrs. 45 minutes to cover a distance of 752 Kms. between Mumbai CST and Hubli.

The present timings of 1017 Express are convenient at Mumbai CST, Hubli and Bangalore.

Reduction in running time of 1017 Express would make the arrival timings at Bangalore very inconvenient and hence is not proposed at present.

Regional Office of the National Film Development Corporation

4037. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for appointments in National Film Development Corporation;

(b) whethe rRegional Offices of National Film Development Corporation are appointing persons on temporary, daily wage and contract basis;

(c) if so, the details of appointments made by National Film Development Corporation since January 1, 1994.

(d) whether complaints have been received regarding violation of criteria; and

(e) if so, the details therof and remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in Passengers between Guwahati and New Delhi

4038. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of passengers have increased manifold between Guwahati and New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of average daily number of passengers on waiting list for Brahmaputra Mail and NE Express for all classes during the last two years;

(c) whether not a single superfast train has been introduced from Guwahati to New Delhi for a long time;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the frequency of Rajdhani Express is going to be increased to daily in lieu for thrice a week now; and

(f) if not, the alternatives considered to provide accommodation to large number of persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The passenger traffic between Guahati and Delhi/New Delhi has increased to some extent.

(b) The daily average number of passengers on waiting list at the originating point by 5621/5622 N.E.Express and 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail during

last two years were as under :

Year	Train No.	Daily Average Wait listed Passengers		
		2AC	FC/3AC	SL
1995	5621 N.E. Express	6	4	56
	5622 N.E. Express	9	5	24
	4055 Brahmaputra Mail	3	4	35
	4056 Brahmaputra Mail	2	1	145
1996	5621 N.E. Express	8	5	60
	5622 N.E. Express	3	1	21
	4055 Brahmaputra Mail	4	3	46
	4056 Brahmaputra Mail	5	5	149

(c) A weekly Rajdhani Express was introduced between New Delhi and Guwahati in July'94 which has been made tri-weekly from 26.1.96.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Load of the existing services is augmented as and when found feasible to clear the extra rush.

Programme Staff of Doordarshan and AIR

4039. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(A) whether the programme staff of All India Radio and Doordarshan undertook fast in December, 1996 and submitted a charter of demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the nature of their demands;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether some of the demands have been considered so far; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Programme Staff Association of AIR and Doordarshan undertook indefinite hunger strike with effect from 5.12.1996. The hunger strike was later withdrawn.

(c) The demands pertain to various administrative matters like revision of pay, filling up of vacant posts, creation of posts, etc.

(d) and (e) The Government have already initiated necessary action in this regard.

(f) Does not arise.

Construction of Subway at Old Faridabad Railway Station

4040. CHAUDHARY RAMACHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware the long pending demand for the construction of one subway near Cabin No. 37 of old Faridabad (Haryana) railway station;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to construct subway at above place; and

(c) the time by which the above subway is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No firm proposal with proposed location, site plan and other relevant details has been received from the appropriate State Authority.

(c) Does not arise.

Optic Fibre Lines

4041. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to enter into the stage of of the 'state-of-the-art' telecommunications;

(b) whether it is possible to by pass the copper-wire era and avail of the facilities offered by the wireless and satellite technologies;

(c) if so, the progress made in this direction;

(d) the expenditure has been incurred during the last three years on laying the optic-fibre lines; and

(e) whether it is justified in the context of the satellite technology?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The following steps are being taken :-

(1) Digitalisation of the Network.

(2) Introduction of advanced technology equipment in transmission like optical fibre and Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH).

(3) Advanced technology in subscriber access like wireless in local access, fibre in local loop.

(4) Introduction of cellular mobile services, V-SAT networks, Mobile Satellite services.

(b) The wireless and satellite technologies compliment and supplement the copper wire technology.

(c) Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is working on Wireless Local Loop (WLL) and also on Mobile Satellite Service (MSS). Both of these will be